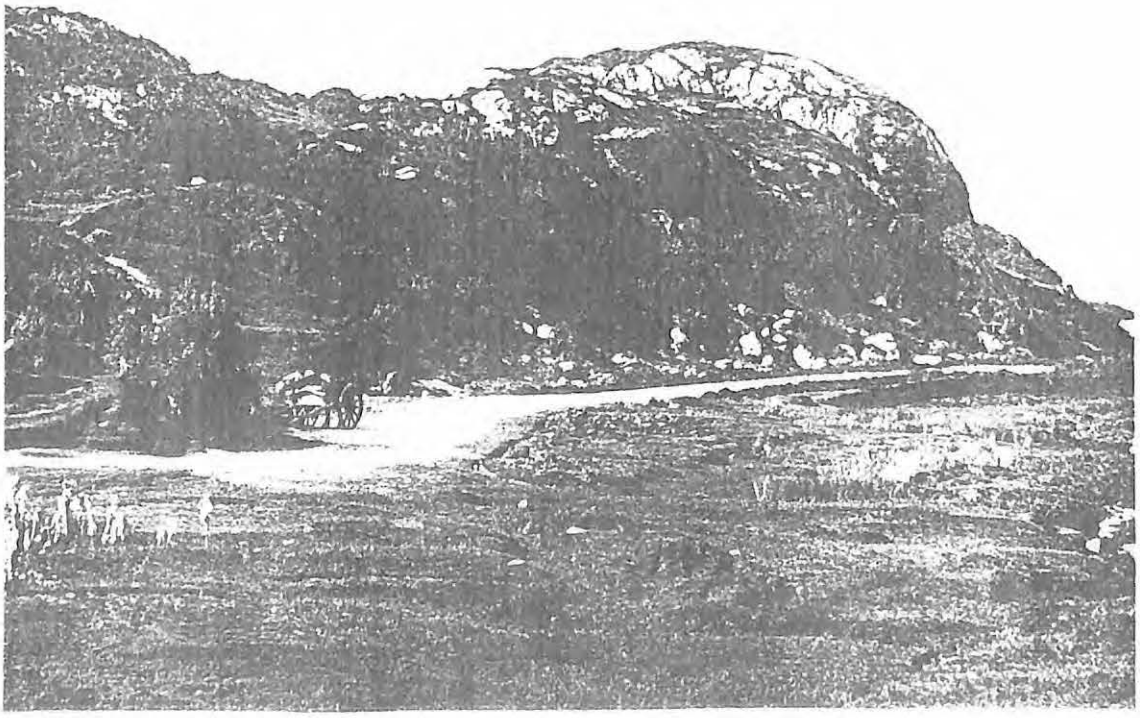
ISSN 0790-7389

Ó Domhnaill Abú

O'Donnell Clan

Newsletter No. 23

Spring 1996



DOON ROCK, INAUGURATION SITE OF THE O'DONNELL CHIEFTAINS.

Niall Ó Dónaill R.I.P.:

Niall Ó Dónaill, formerly of Loughanure, passed away peacefully in his home in Vernon Avenue, Clontarf on Friday, 10th February at the ripe old age of 87.

He was predeceased by his wife Sorcha who died some months ago and her death had a very adverse effect on Niall's well being.

Like most families growing up in west Donegal at the turn of the century, life was difficult for Niall's parents and the possibility of providing Niall with the means to further his schooling after primary level was quite remote.

His mother, however, was instinctively aware of his great intellectual abilities and was anxious that he continue his education. Fortunately he won a scholarship to St. Eunan's College and afterwards attended University College, Dublin. His early days were spent teaching in Dublin but soon after he joined the Civil Service and worked in different departments but his main work centred around translating books into the Irish language for An Gúm, the Government Irish publications wing.

Niall had several publications to his name over the years but he gained national and international recognition for this work in compiling the first modern Irish-English dictionary, a project that occupied seventeen years of his life.

He is survived by his four sons, Jarlach, Padraig, Aodín and Niall and his daughter, Eilís Grae, wife of Michael Grae, formerly chief executive of Bord na Gaeilge. His two sisters are living in Donegal, Hannah Martin in Laghey and Cáit Ní Dhónaill in Dunfanaghy.

Requiem Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Ó hUallacháin P.P., Clontarf and the sermon was preached by Fr. Eoin MacGrianna, Annagry. Raidió na Gaeltachta interupted it's normal schedule of morning programmes to broadcast the Requiem Mass live from St. John the Baptists Church in Clontarf.

On occasions such as this I'm always reminded of Peig Sayers phrase "Ní bheidh ár leithidí ann arís" which translates "People such as us will never exist again." The Rosses has produced many famous people over the years but seldom someone of Niall Ó Dónaill's stature. Tá súil go bhifuil sé ar a shuaimhneas inniu i measc na naomh. Tá sé féin agus Sorcha le chéile arís.

Liam Ó Cunneagáin -

The £900,000 Lifford Courthouse Centre, which provides a fascinating insight into the history of the area, was officially opened by An Tanaiste, Deputy Dick Spring, on Friday last.

"I am very pleased to be ascociated with the public opening of what is clearly one of the finest centres of its kind in Ireland. I am particularly delighted to share the sense of pride of the people of Lifford at this very fine achievement.

"Ben O'Donnell and all his colleagues in the Lifford Association for Tourism, Commerce and Heritage deserve all our congratulations for the hard work and commitment which went into developing this outstanding community asset," Mr Spring said.

Mr Spring said that it was fitting, if not a little ironic, that some countries to which many prisoners were banished from Lifford's old courthouse, had indirectly contributed to the development of the centre through the IFI.

"The circle of history has in effect returned to Lifford in the happiest possible way," Mr Spring concluded.

The Chairman of LATCH, Mr Ben O'Donnell told the gathering that the opening of the new Centre was a great occcasion for the people of Lifford and especially the LATCH committee, who had worked tirelessly over the past few years to bring the project to fruition.

DONEGAL DEMOCRAT, 18th MAY, 1995

Patsy O'Donnell

The late Patsy O'Donnell, who died yesterday (Wednesday) was one of Letterkenny and, indeed, Donegal's most well known citizens.

From education to sport, tourism and religion, there were few spheres of life that Patsy was not in touch with. Always a very frank individual, he occasionally attracted controversy for his stance on certain issues but even his opponents had an admiration for his honest, forthright views and the time and effort that he frequently put into matters on behalf of others.

Born on the Port Road in 1913, he was the youngest of a family of six, his parents being Pat and Bridget O'Donnell.

He was educated at the Presentation Brothers' School and later St. Eunan's College. Upon leaving school, he became a "monitor" (junior assistant teacher) in the local national school for a short period.

He then worked in Charlie O'Donnell's bakery for a spell before being employed by the Board of Works as a "ganger". When he retired from the latter he set up his own undertaker's business.

FOUNDER MEMBER

Back in the 1930s, Patsy was strongly involved with St. Eunan's GAA Club, being a founder member and in subsequent years chairman and then president.

His elevation onto the public platform stemmed from attempts by the Co. Manager to reintroduce rates on council houses. Patsy was chairman of the local tenants' association and he vowed to fight the imposition of the charges. The case went all the way to the High Court, but the tenants lost.

But Patsy had made his mark and in the urban council elections in 1941, he was elected, being second only to the late Hugh McKendrick. In 1945 he topped the poll and romped home at every election for Fianna Fail after that until he retired from politics in 1985.

In the years following, he was to the forefront of the campaign to get the town boundary extended and a new sewerage and water scheme constructed.

He was also a leading light on the committee that was formed in 1961 to get the Swilly drained. This proved to be a tremendously successful venture and alleviated a lot of flooding problems when the river overflowed.

VISION

Patsy's vision has certainly reaped rewards for Letterkenny. Back in 1948, he put pressure on the UDC to buy the section of land from the Port Road to the Oldtown (now known as the Pearse Road or Railway Road). The railway had shut and the track was lifted and Patsy felt a new road along the trackbed would help in the long term development of the town. The town is certainly indebted to him for promoting that project.

As chairman of the UDC, he helped to heighten the profile of the town and was instrumental in bringing the late President Sean T. Kelly to Letterkenny.

He also forged links with the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, USA, back in 1965.

In the field of education, Patsy became an articulate and highly respected member of the Vocational Education Committee at a time when there were many changes while he also played an influential role in the Regional Fisheries Board. Indeed, fishing was close to his heart and he actively fought a number of issues on behalf of the Swilly Loop Net Fishermen's Association.

Patsy always held a keen interest in tourism development and was one of the founder members of the Letterkenny Folk Festival. He was also on the old Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo Tourism Organisation.

He also had strong links with the Church and St. Eunan's Cathedral where he was chief marshal and bell ringer for many years.

Patsy O'Donnell will long be remembered, few people have made such an impact on their community as he has done. The town is mourning the loss of one of its greatest citizens.

Tributes have been flowing in since the news broke of his death with many politicians describing him as one of the best ever public representatives in Letterkenny.

Right: report from Donegal Democrat 2nd March '95.

Far Right: photo of a poster used in U.S.A to advertise Walt Disney's film about Red Hugh O'Donnell. It was this film that inspired the Australian author, see report on page 4.

While I consider the film to be only about 25% historically accurate, yet we should feel honoured that Walt Disney considered Red Hugh(and not some other Irish hero) worthy of being the subject of one of his films.

OBITUARIES

It seems that every time I begin working on a new issue of this Newsletter my first task is to report on the deaths of members since the last issue. And again, some great O'Donnells have passed away since the publication of ODA No. 22.

Niall O Donaill(obituary from Donegal Democrat 23/2/'95) was a friend and a member since day one. A great scholar of the Irish language and history, I often sought his advice. His replies were never brief but ran into pages - an indication of his vast knowledge. I very much regret his passing.

Patsy O'Donnell(obituary from Donegal Democrat 7/4/'95) will be remembered by those who attended the '89 Clan Gathering. Not alone was he involved in organising that event but he gave a very eloquent talk at the grave of Godfrey O'Donnell, 13th cent. Chieftain at Conwal Graveyard(report in ODA No. 12 and talk published in ODA No. 13).

Peg O'Donnell N.T., 'The Rockeries', Dungloe, Co. Donegal died over a year ago. To me she was special for the following reason. At the Annual Dinner of the County Donegal Historical Society in Kee's Hotel, Stranorlar, 9th Nov. 1984 I mentioned to Rupert O'Coughlan who was sitting beside me that I intended starting an O'Donnell Newsletter but lacked the necessary funds. He, immediately, produced his cheque book and made a donation. Peg O'Donnell and her two friends, Kathleen O'Donnell Dungloe and Nancy Huston, Crohey, Dungloe, sitting beside Rupert couldn't help but hear the conversation. All three dipped into their handbags and made similar donations. That was the beginning and in March '95 'O Domhnaill Abu' was launched. Peg enjoyed receiving the Newsletter and, in spite of failing health, always attended Clan Gatherings and other such functions.

I already had this much written when I learned of the death of yet another member, my brother-in-law Neil O'Donnell. Having spent most of his life at sea, he settled in London about ten years ago. Shortly after, his health began to fail; first, diabetes and later, kidney failure. He enjoyed reading O'Domhnaill Abu and was proud to be an O'Donnell. He passed away peacefully in a London hospital on the 1st of Dec. last, aged 57, and was buried in Edinburgh where a piper played O'Donnell Abu at his graveside.

Go ndeanaidh Dia a mhaith orthu uilig. V. O'D.

Paddy is going for gold

A retired Donegal carpenter is looking forward to the prospects of a golden summer!

Bachelor Paddy O'Donnell is preparing to set out gold hunting on the Scottish mountains, with ambitions to travel later to the Australian outback — to pan for gold.

Paddy's gold fever trail began in the 1980s when he flew to the southern hemisphere to search for the gold field where his great grand-uncle Owen Frank O'Donnell went prospecting and panning for gold in the 1860s, from his Donegal homeland. He died a wealthy man in Gympie City in the outback in 1927.

Twelve years ago Paddy travelled to Australia where he met his cousin, schoolteacher John Dale, of Kin-Kin Railways Junction, and together they set out for their uncle's gold trails.

Paddy O'Donnell received a prospecting licence from the Australian authorities — the Miner's Rights Certificate. With cousin John Dale they located the trail of their great grand-uncle and pursued a period of panning gold in the outback. They used the panning technique prescribed by the authorities, that which was in use in the last century in Australia, the Klondyke, and the Californian gold rush of the 1880s.

Paddy admitted that going for gold may not mean riches but it has a lot of excitement with a possibility of finding some of the precious metal.

He is a member of the Gold Panners Association in the U.K.

1595

During the winter of 1594 and early '95 many of the Connaught Clans petitioned Red Hugh to free them of the English who had garristoned themselves in places like, Sligo, Ballymote, Newport, Roscommon etc. On the 3rd of March he assembled his army at Ballyshannon and moved south. Sir Richard Bingham, Governor of Connaught, on hearing of his approach ordered all the English soldiers in the Province to assemble at Boyle as he believed that O'Donnell would pass that way.

Red Hugh, however, had other plans. Being well informed of the English positions, he dispersed his men in small groups to various parts of the Province, where with lightening speed they took much booty and spoils. These they brought back to O'Donnell and then all made off across the Shannon. The English, realising what was happening gave chase, catching up with the marauders as they forded the river. A battle ensued in which many were killed and wounded on both sides but, eventually the Tirconnell men got away with their spoils.

On the 18th of April Red Hugh made another hosting into Connaught to plunder that part missed in March. This time his enemies expected him to return to his native territory but instead he made his way east to Longford and Cavan destroying everything belonging to the English or those friendly with them. In one day alone, they destroyed four castles in English hands and captured more booty than they could carry away. Finally, they turned northwards and arrived home without further incidence.

That summer the English became convinced that O'Neill was in alliance with O'Donnell. O'Neill, learning that an army was about to march against him, requested assistance from O'Donnell. Red Hugh complied immediately and joined O'Neill whereupon the English changed their minds and remained in Dublin.

While Red Hugh was thus absent, a ship load of English soldiers, under the command of George Bingham sailed from Sligo to Rathmullan where they plundered the abbey there bearing with them all valuables including the contents of the chapel. From there, he sailed to Tory Island where they plundered everything they found, before returning to Sligo.

O'Donnell, on receipt of this news hastened homewards to pursue the attackers. But on arrival, word reached him that the Lord Justice was on his way to Tyrone with an army. Red Hugh, again, went to O'Neill's assistance. He arrived there at the same time as the English. For fifteen days the combined armies of Tyrone and Tirconnell faced the English without a blow being struck. Finally, the English returned to Dublin.

A certain Ulick Burke who was friendly with O'Donnell had at some time been wronged and insulted by George Bingham, already mentioned. Ulick, now, awaited his oportunity. It eventually came. One day he cornered George in the latter's room. Ulick demanded an apology and when refused drew his sword and killed the Englishman. Burke, then, held Sligo Castle until O'Donnell's return from Tyrone whereupon he handed it over to him. This was in the month of June.

During his stay in Sligo Castle, Red Hugh was visited by many Connaught Chieftains who swore allegiance to him and accepted him as their overlord. By mid-August O'Donnell was joined at Sligo by MacLeod of Harris and six hundred Gallowglasses. Together, they marched into Connaught attacking and besieging some castles and fortifications still in English hands. Eventually, they returned to Sligo bearing with them as much booty as they could manage. Sir Richard Bingham, Covernor of Connaught, furious at O'Donnell's audacity and having failed to intercept him during his raid through the province, followed him to Sligo. He, with his fifteen hundred soldiers camped a short distance away with the intention of recapturing Sligo Castle. O'Donnell, on hearing of this move planned an ambush. He, carefully chose a place about a mile from Sligo and there posted a band of sharpshooters. Picking some of his best horsemen, he sent them towards the English to lure them into the ambush. The enemy took the bait and set off in hot pursuit after O'Donnell's men. These were ordered not to fight but to keep a safe distance ahead of the pursuers. All went well until one of Red Hugh's horses, for some reason, slowed down and got left behind. His rider, Felim Riach MacDevitt, seeing the enemy approach, decided to go down fighting rather than

be taken prisoner. The leader of the English, Captain Martin, was the first to come within reach. MacDevitt hit him with a well aimed javelin, which made its way through his armour under the armpit and and pierced his heart. The English, immediately, abandoned the chase and returned to camp with their wounded leader. Red Hugh was, 'filled with great wrath' at having lost such a wonderful opportunity but forgave MacDevitt on hearing his story. Captain Martin died that night.

Sir Richard Bingham, uncle of the dead man, decided to have revenge. He ordered his men to destroy the nearby monastery and use the timber to construct '...closely jointed, very firm sheds for war of these beams and elm planks.....' These were...'covered with boards nailed straight-edged, fitted firmly for soldiers to fight from. Skins of cows and oxen were put outside. Straight moving wheels of strong oak were placed under them to move them close to the fortress.' Under cover of darkness they moved these 'sheds' up to the castle walls with the intention of breaching the walls. O'Donnell's men began removing the stones from the top of the wall and dropping them down. Many of the English were wounded and finally fled to safety. Sir Richard, finally, took his army back to Roscommon and Red Hugh and his men returned to Tirconnell.

Having reached home safely with all the spoils taken from Connaught, O'Donnell dismissed his Gallowglasses and returned to Sligo where he totally demolished the castle. Thirteen castles in all he demolished for fear of their falling into English hands. As winter approached many Connaught people - nobles, chiefs, inhabitants, the poor and the sick - flocked to Red Hugh for his protection. They felt it unsafe them to remain at home. He ordered the people of Tirconnell to accommodate them and supply them with food and all their needs.

Red Hugh, between September and December, with his army much reinforced by Connaught men, made several more raids into that province until by the end of the year he was Lord over most of it. The Burke family(of Norman descent) had for many years ruled over that province but for a few years previous to this had little or no power and, indeed, hadn't even a chief. Red Hugh was now requested by the Connaught men to appoint one as they themselves found it difficult to make a choice. Eventually, after much consultation with the leading families of that province, O'Donnell selected and inaugurated Tibbot(Theobald), son of Walter Ciotach(see ODA No. 14) and it was with the newly inaugurated Chief that Red Hugh spent that Christmas. I've been told, though I have not yet seen any supporting documentary evidence, that the same Tibbot was eventually buried alongside Red Hugh in the Franciscan Abbey of Valladolid in Spain.

Thus, by the close of 1595, Red Hugh had the province of Connaught well under his control, quite an accomplishment for a lad of twenty three. V. O'D.

Australian author visits Lifford

Acclaimed Australian teenage author, Deborah Lisson, visited Lifford last week to conduct research on Donegal chieftan, Red Hugh O'Donnell.

The Province of Western Australia has provided Ms Lisson with grant aid to research a trilogy of stories on Donegal's most famous Lord.

Although the Australian author spent 12 days in the genealogical centre in Dublin, she was delighted to discover the late Rupert Coughlan's collection of historical material at the Lifford Old Courthouse Visitors Centre.

Mr Coughlan spent 40 years researching the history of Red Hugh O'Donnell and his family has donated the fruits of his labour to the recently-opened Visitors Centre.

Her books include "The Devils Own" and "The Warrigal" and Ms Lisson hopes to return to Ireland in two years time to continue her research, perhaps extending her visit to a longer period of six months.

This report appeared in the Donegal People's Press sometime during the summer of '95.

Indeed, I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Lisson and was fascinated with her story. While growing up in England she saw Walt Disney's film, 'The Fighting Prince of Donegal. She immediately fell in love with this character.

Later she moved to Australia where she wrote the two books already mentioned. Both were highly successful, but then she was faced with the dilemma - a subject for her next book. Red Hugh was always in her mind and so she decided to write a book, or books based on his biography and using information from other historical documents of the time. She has already done much research here in Ireland and intends doing more. I am delighted to say that the first book is half done and coming along nicely - I've seen the manuscript. We wissh her all the best and look forward to the fruits of her labour. V.O'D.

Looking For Relatives

I have been searching for my "roots" for about 4-1/2 years now. Unfortunately, I didn't develop an interest until I was 57 years of age. By that time both of my parents had passed on and with them, a wealth of genealogical information. I also had a great-aunt, my paternal grandmother's sister, who lived to be 99 years old. She had been born in County Fermanagh. Imagine the fountain of information she would have been.

My father was William O'Donnell born on the west side of New York City on 24 Jan., 1895. His father was also William O'Donnell who had emigrated from Ireland in 1887. The story about his coming to the U.S. deserves telling.

In the mid-1880s, William O'Donnell starting courting Margaret Maguire in County Fermanagh. Margaret's parents took strong exception to his attention to their daughter because they were Catholics and William was a Protestant. The undocumented story goes that the Maguires sent Margaret to some relatives in Dublin to get her away from him. But, he followed her there. Then they sent her to the States in 1887. He must have been seriously in love because somehow he made his way to the States, arriving later the same year.

He took religious instructions from the Paulist Fathers in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle on 60th Street in N.Y.C. and was converted. William O'Donnell married Margaret Maguire in the Church of St. Paul the Apostle on 26 November, 1890.

William and Margaret had 9 children. My father, another William O'Donnell was their third child. My father married my mother, Kathleen Donovan in 1919 on Staten Island, N.Y.. I am the fourth of their five children, born in 1932.

From the marriage register at the church where my grandparents were married, I learned that his father's name was William O'Donnell and his mother's maiden was Rebecca Porter. On the register, where the place of birth of each was asked for, in each case was the identical entry, "Hibernia".

I have done much research in the U.S.Census Records , civil records, church records and cemeteries. I have discovered some information on the Maguires in the Town Hall of Enniskillen on a trip to Ireland in 1992 and from that have made contact with and visited some Maguire descendants in 1993. We had a delightful time and I plan to visit again next May. But information on the O'Donnells has been difficult to come by.

The information I had indicated my grandfather's birth as September, 1867. When in Dublin, in 1992 and again in 1993, I visited the General Register Office in Joyce House on Lombard St. and went through the indices trying to find a record of his birth with no success.

Recently, through the good services of Feargal O'Donnell (no relation) of the The Heritage Centre in Donaghmore, County Tyrone, I have finally made a breakthrough. He has found records of my grandfather's birth and of his siblings. They are as follows:

William -born 7 June, 1864 -Buoyogohan (my grandfather)

Catherine -born 29 August, 1866 - Liscreevan

Elizabeth -born 26 June, 1868 - Rossgweer

Henry -born 26 June, 1870 - Rossgweer

Margaret -born 27 May, 1872 -Rossgweer

Rebecca -born 28 June, 1874 - Rossgweer

Unnamed child -born 26 July, 1876 - Rossgweer

Isaac -born 4 Oct., 1878 - Ballindullah

The names after the birthdates are of townlands in the District of Irvinestown in County Fermanagh.

Having progressed so far, I am wondering if anyone out there might have some connection with any of these people.

If anyone has a connection with, or any information regarding these O'Donnells, I would be delighted to hear from you. Please write to me.

James R. (Jim) O'Donnell
14 Cider Mill Circle
Flemington, NJ 08822
U.S.A.

Msgr. Thomas O'Donnell

Msgr. Thomas O'Donnell, editor, 1918-1922.

BY MARIE DALY
Special to The Catholic Register

With the death of Joseph Wall, as the editor of *The Catholic Register and Canadian Extension,* in September of 1918, the Board of Directors appointed the President of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada, Monsignor (later Bishop of Victoria and Archbishop of Halifax) Thomas O'Donnell, as interim editor, until a permanent one could be found. He proved to be a most capable editor, in addition to his duties as president of the Society.

Thomas O'Donnell was born in Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland, in 1874, and moved to Toronto at the age of 8. He attended high school there, and then went to the Grand Seminary in Montreal. Ordained on Dec. 23, 1899, he worked in several Toronto parishes, including St. Paul's, St. Ann's and St. Cecilia's. In 1916, by papal appointment, he became the president of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada, and at the end of his 5-year term he was re-elected unanimously. In Cardinal McGuigan's words, he "built up (the Society) into a Dominion-wide, active, energetic agency, the handmaid of the missions of Western Canada."

Recognizing the fine work Joseph Wall had done, Msgr. O'Donnell directed the paper along the same lines as his predecessor. He continued to run many of the same columns as Wall, making changes only as needed.

The energy and zeal that he showed for his job as president of the Extension Society was evident in his editorials on topics ranging from the history of French Canada, Bolshevism, Toronto separate schools, or American politics. But his special subject was the Irish question, and page four often sizzled from the intensity of his editorials: "The government of England today regards Ireland as English governments have regarded her from the days of the Norman invasion, a land to blame for her own sufferings and unworthy of good government because she has always failed in what the English have considered as the first duty of a conquered country: she failed to submit. As a result of this mentality the policy of the old Cromwellians is pursued and peace finds no place in Ireland."

When the Republic of Ireland finally achieved her centuries-long goal of independence, Msgr. O'Donnell wrote: "the day of 'might is right' has passed."

In 1922, the search for the seventh full-time editor of *The Catholic Register and Canadian Extension* was completed, and Patrick J. Coleman was named successor. With this, Msgr. O'Donnell was able to dedicate all his time and attentions to the Extension Society, until the following year when he was appointed Bishop of Victoria. From Victoria he was promoted to the See of Halifax in 1929, and he remained there until his death in 1936.

He had carried the burden of the editor's role for four years, while the search continued for another qualified editor. In the words of his successor, he was "a formidable fighter in the cause of the Catholic Church."

'O'Domhnaill Abu' is published by V. O'Donnell, Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. Tel.: 073-36059
Subscription rates for four issues:

Ireland & Britain.....£7
All other countries.....£8

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Colmcille Commemoration

Next year, 1997, being the 1400th anniversary of Colmcille's death in 597, both Ireland and Scotland have already begun planning celebrations. I hear that Derry city, also, intends celebrating the event as it owes its foundation to that same saint. Derry derives from the gaelic word 'Doire' meaning oak grove and it was in an oak forest at the head of

RTE Guide, Dec. 29,1995

Proudly The Note

O'Donnell Abú has been the signal tune for Irish broadcasting from its beginnings. Patrick Quilligan talked to John Kinsella, who has composed an overture incorporating the tune to celebrate 70 years of Irish broadcasting

When John Kinsella was commissioned last October to write an overture to celebrate 70 years of Irish radio, his first question was: when would the concert take place? The answer was: January, 1996. Scenes of panic ensued. Normally the lead time would be a lot longer.

The commission from RTE Music, a subsidiary of RTE Commercial Enterprises, specified that the signal tune for Irish broadcasting, *O'Donnell Abú*, be used. "The piece starts with the *O'Donnell Abú* orchestration by Kevin Roche for harp and celeste; then it leads into various variations on the theme. It starts slowly and speeds up to fast allegro. What I try to do is create an atmosphere of someone waking up."

Festive Overture is the result. "After two playings of the station signal the cellos and double basses enter quietly with a tremolando and the upper strings glissando to meet them. It is as if the orchestra has been aroused from its slumbers and yawns. *O'Donnell Abú* is heard again, and there is a more positive reaction from the orchestra with the cellos playing a slow theme which stretches right through the register. There follows a dreamy tune, a variant of a phrase from the station signal, on cor anglais," says John.

The Celebration Concert, live from the NCH with the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Albert Rosen, features soloists soprano Mary Hegarty and tenor Patrick Power in music that has become popular on the airwaves since the birth of 2RN on New Year's Day 1926.

The door of the Church of San Piedro de Montorio, Rome where Rory O'Donnell(Earl of Tirconnel) and his brother, Caffir, were buried in 1608(see ODA No. 2 & 11). I asked this lady friend to photograph their graves for me while she was there getting married a few years ago. After spending half a day walking and asking for directions she got there to find it closed to the public due to repairs being carried out. On returning to Ireland she handed me this photo and grumbled something about, "wasting precious honeymoon time seeking old graves behind closed doors." If anyone ever gets the opportunity to photograph that grave I would really appreciate a copy.

Colmcille Commemoration continued.

Lough Foyle that Saint Colmcille(Columba) founded his greatest monastery. Hence the name - Doire Cholmcille. Many events are being planned, most of which will probably take place around the 9th of June as that was the date of his death. As we consider this great holy man to have been of O'Donnell stock, we should be involved in some way, or even organise our own commemoration. However great the celebration, it will be difficult to surpass that of 1897 which is well recorded in a volume entitled, 'The Gartan Festival' published by M. H. Gill & Sons, Dublin, 1898.